

# CONNECTED



December 2007

## Water and Sewer Rate Expected to Increase in 2008

Marietta Water is looking to increase water and sewer rates beginning in January 2008, as part of a series of steps to reduce water consumption. Marietta Water residential customers' water allowance will be limited to 90 percent of last year's winter average (December through March).

The Georgia Environmental Protection Divisions (EPD) issued the new rules to Marietta Water, other water utilities in Cobb County, and those in 60 other North Georgia Counties in October.

As part of the effort to achieve the 10 percent reduction in water consumption, Marietta Water will increase prices for all three tiers of the conservation rate structure implemented in 2007. Residential

customers who use more than 12,000 gallons per month will see the largest increase.

"A 10 percent reduction in water use is a first step, and we will continue to evaluate our drought response and encourage additional conservation as needed,"

Governor Sonny Perdue said when he directed the EPD to issue the new rules that mandated utilities in drought-affected areas to cut water consumption.

"I encourage all Georgians to make their dry lawns and dirty cars a badge of

honor. By making individual conservation efforts, along with reasonable solutions from our federal government, we can collectively help to ensure that our water supply is sufficient." ⚡



## Drought Results in New Water Use Rules for Marietta Water's Residential Customers

Marietta Water's Drought Response Plan includes a variety of new restrictions on residential water use.

For starters, Marietta Water has reduced the outdoor watering exemption for new landscaping work to 15 days. This exemption applies only to work performed by licensed landscapers. During this exemption period, homeowners may water only between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m., and licensed landscapers may only water when they are on site during this 15-day period.

In addition, Marietta Water will now allow only one new landscape exemption per planting season. We define the planting seasons as Fall (September - March) and Spring (April - August). Landscapers must provide a homeowner with an invoice that includes the date of installation, location of installation, and the type of installation performed. The homeowners must then

submit these invoices to Marietta Water in order to receive the exemption.

Marietta Water also requires residential customers to repair leaks faster than in the past. Our representatives will immediately alert the customer or leave a door hanger at any address where we detect a slow leak. The customer then has 10 days to get the leak repaired or have their water shut off. If a leak exceeds one gallon per minute, Marietta Water will notify the customer and shut off water service until the leak is repaired.

Residential customers may no longer pressure wash their homes for beautification purposes either. Marietta Water only allows pressure washing when necessary to prepare for painting or other such procedures.

Marietta Water will closely monitor water use, as well, and immediately take action to enforce the restrictions when violations

*continued*

## Drought Emergency Results in New Water Use Rules for Marietta Water's Residential Customers *continued*

occur. For additional information about the new water restrictions for 2008, please visit [mariettaga.gov/departments/utilities/water/restrictions.aspx](http://mariettaga.gov/departments/utilities/water/restrictions.aspx).

Finally, Marietta Power and Water urge customers to reduce water consumption. For Marietta Power and Water to meet the goals set by Governor Perdue, each Marietta Water customer will need to limit their water allowance to 90 percent of last year's winter average (December through March). If we all work together, we can reach this

goal and head off an even greater water shortage. For tips on ways to conserve and information about water use and rebate programs that will benefit our customers go to [www.mariettawater.com](http://www.mariettawater.com).

We appreciate your support and understanding as we take these necessary steps in order to deal with the current water crisis that we all face. We also look forward to continue providing you with a reliable supply of water – even during these difficult times. ⚡

## NEW WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

Marietta Water's Drought Response Plan has had effects on local businesses as well as on our residential customers.

In addition to changes that have affected local landscaping and pressure-washing businesses, you can see some of the most obvious changes at your local:

**Car Wash** – Only commercial car washes that have a water recycling system may remain in operation.

**Restaurants** – Marietta Water has incorporated a "serve water only upon request" initiative into the current grease control program.

**Schools** – Marietta Water has implemented a pilot project with our Partner in Education, Park Street Elementary School, to develop conservation education programs that other schools in our distribution system can replicate.

In addition, Marietta Water has established a single rate for all commercial and

industrial customers, including schools, to promote conservation. Commercial customers have also had their water allowance limited to 90 percent of last year's winter average (December through March). Any commercial customers who exceeds this allowance may be subject to penalties.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may penalize any water permit holders who exceed their allowance. Any penalties that are levied against Marietta Water will be passed along to Marietta Water customers.

We will continue to evaluate rebate programs for commercial and industrial customers.

For more details on the ways that Marietta Water's Drought Response Plan has affected local businesses, please visit [mariettaga.gov/departments/utilities/water/restrictions.aspx](http://mariettaga.gov/departments/utilities/water/restrictions.aspx). ⚡

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Marietta Power and Water will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25 in observance of the holiday and Tuesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

### January 13 through February 24, 2008

#### Theatre in the Square presents **ROOM SERVICE**

One of the great comedy successes of all times, this mile-a-minute, laugh-a-minute farce was also a hilarious Marx Brothers movie.

For more information please call (770) 422-8369

### March 8 and 9, 2008

#### The Georgia Ballet presents **La Sylphide**

Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 2 and 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 2 p.m.

The Cobb County Civic Center

For more information please call the Box Office (770) 528-0881

For a complete list of City of Marietta events please visit [www.mariettaga.gov](http://www.mariettaga.gov) and click on Calendar of Events.

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